Implementation of Disability Act, in Railways

1313. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have not got implemented the 10 years old Disability Act in Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are considering to prepare a list of jobs that can be provided to physically handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Railways have already identified a department-wise list of posts in Group 'C' & 'D' categories to which physically handicapped can be recruited.

Further, in Indian Railway Medical Service and the non-technical service of Indian Railway Accounts Service and Indian Railway Personnel Service, reservation has been provided for Persons with Disabilities.

Regarding Engineering Services and other Miscellaneous Service Posts, the Ministry of Railways is seeking exemption from the purview of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 since they encompass field duties of train running and operations.

Container terminal in Madurai

1314. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether container terminal at Kodal Nagar in Madurai is not operational;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to operate the container terminal at Madurai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The terminal is fully operational.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Metre gauge railway lines

1315. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total length of metre gauge railway lines in the country, as on 31st January, 2006;

(b) the details of proposals formulated, so far, to convert these metre gauge lines into broad gauge line in the country;

(c) if so, the details of implementation of the above proposals; and

(d) the target date fixed by Government to complete this works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The data on railway route kilometres is maintained as on 31st March of each financial year. As such the details of total length (route kilometres) of metre gauge railway lines as on 31st March, 2005 (latest available) are given below:—

Name of the Railway Zone	Metre Gauge Route Kilometres
Central	Nil
Eastern	Nil
East Central	817
East Coast	Nil
Northern	88
North Central	46
North Eastern	1892
Northeast Frontier	1886
North Western	2625
Southern	1977
South Central	838
South Eastern	Nil
South East Central	Nil
South Western	399
Western	2094
West Central	Nil
GRAND TOTAL	12662